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SUBJECT:

AMERICAN TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY

TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH BUILDING

195 BROADWAY

JOHN J. CARTY
CHIEF ENGINEERBANCROFT GHERARDI
ENGINEER OF PLANTKARL W. WATERSON
ENGINEER OF TRAFFIC

NEW YORK March 27, 1919.

Lt. Col. J. O. Mauborgne, S. C., U.S.A.,
Office of the Chief Signal Officer,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Colonel Mauborgne:

For your further information in connection with our ciphering system and Colonel Fabyan's efforts to break it, I am enclosing herewith a copy of his letter to me of March 22 and my reply of the 27th. I do not know whether Colonel Fabyan is fooling himself or has tried to fool us.

Yours sincerely,

B. Gherardi
Acting Chief Engineer.

Enclosure:

Photostat Copy of
letter from Colonel
Fabyan to Mr. Gherardi,
dated March 22.

Copy of letter to
Colonel Fabyan from
Mr. Gherardi, dated
March 27.

BG-GJ

March 27, 1919.

Colonel George Fabyan,
Riverbank,
Geneva, Ill.

My dear Colonel Fabyan:

I have your letter of March 22 with reference to our ciphering machine and note that you have, with a few minor errors, deciphered message No. 2. I have no doubt you have also deciphered No. 3. If you will reread my letter to you of June 11, a copy of which I attach for your convenience, you will note in it the following statements:

"I am not a cipher expert and would not presume to say what can and cannot be done, but should you and Professor Friedman decipher messages Nos. 1, 5, 6 and 7, I shall feel that I owe you both a good dinner. I have no doubt that you can decipher Nos. 2, 3, and perhaps 4. These, however, as you understand are not the arrangement which we propose."

[The messages which you have deciphered are Nos. 2 and 3 which I stated I had no doubt you could decipher, but which were not the arrangement which we propose. When you have deciphered Nos. 1, 5, 6 or 7, something will have been accomplished in breaking the system in question. I shall be glad to know whether any progress has been made in deciphering messages Nos. 1, 5, 6 and 7.]

Colonel Fabyan.

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With best regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

Attached:

Photostat Copy of
Letter to Colonel
Fabyan from Mr. Gherardi,
dated June 11, 1918.

BG-GJ

Bliss, Talyan & Co.

P.O. Box 435

Chicago

March 22, 1919.

My dear Mr. Gherardi:

I went to your office last May and had the pleasure of seeing a very clever cipher machine and with the confidence borne of past experience, conceit and egotism, I gave an off-hand opinion that the work so enciphered could be deciphered and I remember the pitying looks I received from these present.

Many things have happened since then. My working staff was taken over by the Government and we had a great deal of work to do beside.

I now want to say that the machine is damn clever and I have a great respect for the brains which thought it out but I am still of the opinion that the cipher is breakable, although it has cost me several thousand dollars to confirm my off-hand opinion expressed in your office when you handed me the attached message .

With cordial, personal regards

Sincerely yours,

To Mr. Bancroft Gherardi,
Engineer of Plant,
American Telephone and Telegraph Co.,
195 Broadway,
New York, N.Y.

RIVERBANK
LABORATORIESGENEVA
ILLINOIS

COPY OF ONE OF THE TEST MESSAGES ENCIPHERED BY THE CIPHER PRINTING TELEGRAPH MACHINE ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND SUBMITTED TO RIVERBANK BY THE AMERICAN TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASCERTAINING THE POSSIBILITY OF ITS DECIPHERMENT.

DAPPP PPJPJ 5AFMI RT3IO SP5VT TUJ54 4NJ6X 73CHI LQ2XH HLS3K H76TO WYS22
 UHGJS 2GZ7J JJS6Q OPG36 EEK2E UNPZ3 LERYX 4JUB 43IPA UTT6B SOR7D 2PRA
 YBILF DJGAJ GF7GR BG6NO SYABQ ZUD4Q HJTEP CYOJP YB4RU AIQDS 7RY5L 56UOP
 APYAN KCXTH XQ47E 5R03F FWINZ UIA5J 22N76 NAZWZ GJKKJ NDJZ4 6TQRV SZL5H
 LKGPZ NSNVY KOTK2 HZ3YN G7QEX GJLR3 YGWSF VSKD7 RYCJ5 LWB12 QCFBP DCBCZ
 WMYCK 6VJDP EGXVF BQFB5 A5QSR BA3FL KFGVX CUAQ6 V2LVA VF47L 6DJQT K7OOE
 JEL7G ADDAZ 6JXX5 FIM5I OL6ZA KYQ53 RNNF7 PBIQB CUNGN WDPTX YACAX LEYSY
 263VR PKWJW 6DSYE FWOY4 K55NK LK6EN GRYS2 YONAH QFL5H DX3GW 6BJK7 NBAVO
 EOJSP R2YIS J2ZGH BSHB5 SLFXQ MCDKZ 4RYPL 62IDF RVCDQ PH65E UFIFI GQNSB
 MWOFP XMMVY 6NOBF KC4B7 SEQ3J OHPYC 6WHZH BGOIB 6GZ5D 73L37 2Y3EQ NACGP
 2T4OG NLR

T R A N S L A T I O N

BRIGADIER GENERAL BROWN 50 TRANSPORT LEVIATHAN IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE AT CALAIS
 SATURDAY APRIL 2 WITH DIVISIONS 305 249 AND 467 AERIAL SQUADRONS 11 12 AND 13
ZIGNAL BATTALIONS 25 26 AND 27 ARTILLERY SECTIONS 40 41 AND 42 HOSPITAL SECTIONS
 49 TO 91 INCLUSIVE ALL OF THE ABOVE UNITS ARE TO ENTRAIN AT ONCE AND PROCEED TO
 ALIENS UNDER YOUR CHARGE AT ALIENS DETRAIN AT DEPOT NO TWO AND MARCH TO CAMP NO
 SIX TEN MILES EAST OF THE CITY PROPER THERE EN CAMP AND REPORT YOUR ARRIVAL AT
 ONCE TO HEADQUARTERS